



GEORGE E. LEMON & CO.,
Editors and Proprietors.

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GEORGE E. LEMON & CO.,

Editors and Proprietors,

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REDUCTION OF SUBSCRIPTION.

We are so determined to bring the NATIONAL TRIBUNE within the reach of every one that we now reduce the price of subscription from ONE DOLLAR to FIFTY CENTS per year.

This latter amount is the lowest possible figure at which a paper of this style and size has been or can be furnished, and it can only be maintained at this price to regular subscribers and on a large subscription roll. Again we urge upon our friends the duty of prompt action in subscribing and canvassing for this paper. We shall arrange with our subscribers at the old rate as they may prefer, by extension of the time or by sending two papers for one, but we very much prefer that each of our old subscribers send us an order for another paper.

Hereafter the NATIONAL TRIBUNE will not be sent to any but its regular subscribers, and those who need it will find it to their advantage to subscribe at once and forward their names and the cash to the publishers.

GEORGE E. LEMON & CO.,

P. O. Drawer 325, Washington City.

We invite correspondence from surgeons and others on matters of general or special interest. Views and suggestions of practical men are always valuable.

We of course can pay no attention to anonymous communications; but shall always hold all communications addressed to us as strictly confidential, unless the writer permits the use of his name.

If you have made application for Pension and it has been delayed in settlement, THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE explains the trouble and suggests the remedy. Subscribe for it.

Every new measure for the soldiers' benefit introduced in Congress is noticed in the NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

The National Tribune.

The publishers and editors of the NATIONAL TRIBUNE know very well that many slight and ill-conducted papers purporting to be devoted to the cause of the soldier have fluttered for a brief hour and perished, and that this fact operates against the immediate success of any paper advocating the same cause.

We refer with a just pride to the numbers of our periodical already published, as containing articles of pith and moment upon things and measures of immediate and palpable importance.

We do not hesitate to criticize fearlessly any measure, no matter what its source, and to express our honest opinion upon the probable results.

We admire and regard Mr. Bentley, and consider him one of the very best officers we have ever known, but we have believed him to be in error, and we choose to say so because it is our duty.

And so we say that so long as we control this paper we shall lose no opportunity to attack what we believe to be wrong and to defend what we believe to be right.

The one claim that we make to public confidence and support is bold and intelligent discussion of measures proposed and manly assertion of our own carefully considered views.

We know that we have had an experience in matters of pensions that few have reached, and believe we can readily see the advantages or evils of changes proposed.

All these qualities we mean to put into our paper, and we do it first for the benefit of our subscribers, and, second, for our own.

We do not wish to publish at a loss. We prefer very greatly that the paper shall be self-sustaining, and we will not break our hearts should it actually make money.

We send out again a large edition, very considerably larger than our permanent subscription-list. We send it that all may have an opportunity of judging of it. We send it in the hope and expectation that all to whom we send it will become permanent subscribers, and thus do us a double favor, by furnishing the benefit of their subscription-money and reducing at the same time the heavy burden of transient postage.

We ask every man and woman who shall read this number, and who believes in the importance of the matters contained in it, to subscribe at once and forward their subscription to us. The financial condition of a paper is not the only thing benefited by a large list; its influence is largely measured by its number of subscribers.

One effort by the friends of the cause will put all difficulties out of the way and give us all the strength we want to pursue vigorously our appointed way.

We mean to make the paper such in character and spirit that no man interested in the subjects of which we treat who has once enjoyed the reading of the NATIONAL TRIBUNE shall ever be content to do without it.

The question is with you, readers. Will you help or will you give us the cold shoulder? Will you give us the aid of the money asked for fighting your cause? Will you give us the strength of your names on our subscription-list, so that we may speak in your names and by your authority?

Decide fairly, frankly, and at once.

Within the reach of 'all—THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, at fifty cents for one year.

Proposed Changes in the Examination of Pensioners and of Pension Claims.

It is officially announced that a bill is in preparation in the Department of the Interior, to be presented to Congress, to change the mode of medical and other examinations, in conformity with the plan heretofore proposed by the Commissioner of Pensions.

We have already given to our readers some of the most palpable objections to the plan proposed.

But the changes advocated are so sweeping in their nature and so destructive in their effect that they need scrutiny and criticism in full.

As at present organized, the Pension Department has prepared certain forms and established certain rules, which must be strictly complied with by claimants.

Familiarity with these forms and rules is absolutely necessary on the part of those who represent the claimant, and that familiarity can only be obtained by careful study, not only of the law but of the rulings and decisions of the office. These forms and decisions are now generally known and acted upon by claimants, their friends, and the local agents and officers. The business is done by correspondence, at small cost and with no serious outlay of time and money to prepare the necessary proofs. The convenience of the pensioner is considered, the fact that he is generally of small means is recognized, and a vast amount of business is readily and easily done, which cannot so readily and easily be done in any other way.

To break up all the existing arrangements in cases now pending would be to throw away the money, time, and labor already spent, and to compel the Pension Committees of Congress to be burdened beyond toleration by applications for special relief.

No such loss or danger to the United States is or can be shown as would justify this wholesale change in established practice.

Second. Under the present system the necessary local medical and surgical examinations of the claimant are made by examining surgeons who reside in the vicinity, who are readily accessible by the claimant, who can learn facts from the neighbors, and who report to the Pension Office the result of their examination.

Now it is the duty of these examining surgeons to report facts—the actual physical condition of the claimant—with much detail, so as to cover all the existing facts of each case; but they do not make the final decision and award. By the rules of the office these reports are submitted for review and decision to the medical officers of the Pension Office, under the charge of the Medical Referee, who, in the language of Bentley's Report, p. 9, "has general supervision of the medical questions, THE RATING OF PENSIONERS, and of the appointment of pension examining surgeons."

It is by the Medical Referee here in Washington that the final adjudication is made, and the examining surgeons only gather facts together on which he is to give final decision.

It requires of the examining surgeons simply that general knowledge of the profession that all well educated physicians have—to make a clear and intelligible statement of the actual state of the man examined by them, the diseases or wounds by which he is afflicted, the effect of such diseases or wounds, and the symptoms actually observed and seen.

Now the examining surgeons of the Pension Office are selected by the Medical Referee and the Commissioner. They are and ought to be